



TIP OF THE SPEAR

COMMANDANT: USMC WILL REMAIN AMERICA'S CRISIS REPOSE FORCE



Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, announced the downsizing of the Marine Corps to 174,000 Sept. 16. The force size accepts risks with being designed under the sequestered budget, but allows the Marine Corps to remain America's crisis response force. "The bottom line is we are asking more from our Marines today than at almost any other point in our history," he said, "a trend that will likely continue and further bound our future." The new force structure will be



heavily focused on Marine Expeditionary Brigades, which have the capability to rapidly deploy as a scalable Joint Task Force headquarters. An additional 1,000

Marines are congressionally mandated for the Marine Security Guard Program. "Our nation requires a Marine Corps that is ready, forward deployed and able to respond to crisis on a moment's notice," Amos said. "This will not change for the foreseeable future, no matter the budgetary woes our country faces." [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Recruit Drew Ashe, Platoon 3085, India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, attempts to pull himself over a raised log on an obstacle course Aug. 19 on Parris Island, S.C. The course is one of many physical training tools used to help Marine recruits improve their strength and stamina. Parris Island has been the site of Marine Corps recruit training since Nov. 1, 1915. *(Photo by Cpl. Caitlin Brink)*



IN THE NEWS

OSPREYS MAKE LONGEST PACIFIC FLIGHT TO DATE



The longest-distance Osprey tanking mission in the Asia-Pacific region was completed Aug. 2-5 with two MV-22B Ospreys beginning at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan and ending in Townsville, Australia. Two KC-130J Super Hercules refueling aircraft supported the Ospreys during the record-setting flight. "The Ospreys are capable of long, sustained flight and we proved that," said Lance Cpl. Justin F. Montgomery, a KC-130J fixed-wing aircraft crew chief with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152. "I got to be a part of history, gain more experience in the process, and I enjoyed it." With the success of the flight,

more long-distance Osprey missions are likely to occur in the near future. [Read more](#)

TOP U.S. GENERAL IN AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSES NEXT PHASE OF WAR



Following the withdrawal of U.S. and coalition combat forces in December 2014, forces will begin a new and smaller mission called Resolute Support that focuses on completing the development of Afghan security institutions, stated Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan. The mission slated to begin in January 2015 is key to maintain the progress the U.S. has made in Afghanistan. "We must continue to build functional expertise into the Afghan forces and security ministries so they may operate effectively after coalition forces leave," Dunford said. [Read more](#)

FEMALE MARINE CONQUERS GRUELING COURSE



Cpl. Heather Redenius became the first female to finish the Assault Climber's Course at the Mountain Warfare Training Center Sept. 4. The course tests Marines mentally and physically as they are tested on the tying of knots, rope systems, and climbing vertical and near vertical landscapes, often at areas the consists of multiple rock faces ranging approximately 25 to 50 feet in height. Only 18 of the 36 Marines that started the course graduated. "At no point did I consider giving up," Redenius said. With the Marine Corps offering existing military occupational specialties and training packages to females, Marines like Redenius

show that they are ready to accept the new challenges that lie ahead. [Read more](#)

MARINES DEPLOY TO PROTECT EMBASSY



Marines and Sailors with 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, said their goodbyes to their families and friends at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 14, as they deployed to provide security for an embassy in the Middle East. The unrest in the region makes the Marines' presence a necessity. "Right now in the Middle East, it's a very volatile time," said Capt. Peter Hersey, a company commander with 1st Marines. "There are a lot of changes happening, and a lot of different people struggling for power in the governments." [Read more](#)

PHIBLEX 14 KICKS OFF



Marines of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) and III Marine Expeditionary Force arrived at the Republic of the Philippines, Sept. 14 to prepare for the U.S.-Philippines bilateral Amphibious Landing Exercise 2014 (PHIBLEX 14). PHIBLEX 14 is an annual, bilateral training exercise that enhances security and stability within the region while also helping to prepare for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. "This whole exercise greatly benefits the relationship between the U.S. and Republic of the Philippines," said Cpl. Trevor Felten with 3rd MEB. "Any time we go out on

these exercises, both parties can learn from each other and understand different ways of doing things."



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 20, 1950

Marines of the 1st Marine Division crossed the Han River along a six-mile beachhead, eight miles northwest of Seoul, Korea. Five days later, the 1st and 5th Marines would attack Seoul and the city would be captured by Sept. 27.



SEMPER FI

WORLD WAR II MARINES REUNITE AT COMBAT CENTER



The "Forgotten Battalion" of World War II reunited Sept. 13 with family members and friends surrounding them with love and support. "Joining you this evening is more of an honor, more of a privilege than you can imagine," said Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. These artillerymen of 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, sailed from San Diego on July 1, 1942, headed for war in the South Pacific. The group spent 34 months in continuous service in the Pacific Theater, racking up six battle stars supporting five separate Marine divisions and several U.S. Army

units during combat landings at Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Guam and Iwo Jima. [Read more](#)



THE CORPS REPORT

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OUR MISSION

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